

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
ARA-14 DHA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 MC-02 PRS-01 PA-02
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FM AMCONSUL BREMEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2294
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
US MISSION BERLIN 479
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, US

SUBJECT: KOSCHNICK DISCUSSES US-GERMAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE MUNICH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HANS KOSCHNICK, MAYOR OF BREMEN AND NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD, SKETCHED THE PRESENT STATE OF US-GERMAN RELATIONS, TOUCHING ON SUCH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES AS THE FRG-BRAZIL ATOMIC POWER DEAL, NATO STANDARDIZATION, PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND THE TREATMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HE CONCLUDED THAT DESPITE TEMPORARY DISCORDS, THE FOUNDATION OF US-GERMAN RELATIONS REMAINS STRONG.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE LAND BREMEN PRESS OFFICE MADE AVAILABLE TO US COPIES OF BUERGERMEISTER HANS KOSCHNICK'S ADDRESS, DELIVERED AT A MONTHLY LUNCHEON OF THE MUNICH BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN GERMANY ON MAY 31. THE TOPIC OF THE TALK WAS "GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS--TENSIONS OR COOPERATION?" FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPEECH, COPIES OF WHICH ARE BEING MAILED THROUGH THE POUCH.

3. KOSCHNICK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FORMULATION OF THE TOPIC REFLECTS THE FACT THAT TO AN INCREASING DEGREE POINTS OF FRICTION HAVE ARISEN RECENTLY IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IN PART SUCH FRICTIONS WERE A FUNCTION OF EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, IN PART THEY WERE AN OUTGROWTH OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND OF DISPARATE RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO WORLD-POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, KOSCHNICK DECLARED, HE WELCOMED THE FACT THAT AT THE RECENT SUMMIT MEETING THE US PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR NOT ONLY REACHED A CLOSER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, BUT ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THEM AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS NOT ONLY DESIRABLE BUT NECESSARY BETWEEN PARTNERS.

4. MOVING ON TO SPECIFIC ISSUES, KOSCHNICK DISCUSSED THE PRESENT STATE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HE COVERED THE PROBLEMS OF ENERGY IN GENERAL AND THE RISKS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, BOTH FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PROLIFERATION STANDPOINTS. HE WELCOMED THE COMMITMENT OF THE PARTICPANTS AT THE LONDON SUMMIT TO ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE. HE REFERRED TO THE COMMITMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO AIM AT A 5 PERCENT GROWTH LEVEL THIS YEAR AND SAID THAT, IN THE EVENT THAT THIS LEVEL CANNOT BE ACHIEVED, FURTHER STIMULATIVE MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL BECOME NECESSARY. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO GENERAL PRESCRIPTION FOR A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT. CAUTIONING AGAINST ANY STEPS THAT MIGHT REKINDELE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES, KOSCHNICK SAID THAT THE CAPACITIES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO STIMULATE FURTHER

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GROWTH IN ITS IMPORTS WERE LIMITED.

5. COMMENTING ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, KOSCHNICK PLEADED FOR A MORE GENEROUS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD VIS-A-VIS THE DEMANDS OF THE THIRD WORLD. HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT UNWISE TO TRY TO KEEP THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DANGLING MUCH LONGER AND TO PUT THEM OFF WITH PROMISES OF A BETTER TOMORROW. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CAPACITY FOR COMPROMISE AND CONCESSION BY THE US AND THE FRG VIS-A-VIS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS NOT UNLIMITED, BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. KOSCHNICK EXPRESSED HIMSELF FIRMLY AGAINST INDEXATION OF RAW MATERIAL PRICES AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF ESTABLISHING A GENERAL COMMODITIES FUND. HE SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT RECEIPTS BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THEIR RAW MATERIALS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD MUST BE PREPARED SERIOUSLY TO CONSIDER DEMANDS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DEBT MORATORIUM.

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6. KOSCHNICK THEN BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, I.E., ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND FEARS OF WEAPONS PROLIFERATION. REFERRING TO THE FRG'S CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL, KOSCHNICK ALLEGED THAT THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WERE CONCERNED LEST THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, IN A KIND OF TECHNOLOGICAL NEOCOLONIALISM, DENY TO THEM THE MEANS FOR ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY. WITHOUT WISHING TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH THIS VIEWPOINT OF THE THIRD WORLD, KOSCHNICK SAID THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT THE LOSS OF FACE BY THE FRG VIS-A-VIS BRAZIL; THE RELIABILITY AND GOOD FAITH OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AT LARGE VIS-A-VIS THE THIRD WORLD WERE AT STAKE. REFERRING TO THE US DECISION NOT TO PROMOTE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR, KOSCHNICK SAID THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS A SIMILAR DECISION BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC CANNOT BE ENTIRELY RULED OUT. HE

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EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CONCERN OF THE US OVER THE

INCREASED RISKS OF PROLIFERATION STEMMING FROM A PLUTONIUM ECONOMY.

7. KOSCHNICK WAS CAUSTICALLY CRITICAL OVER THE BEHAVIOR OF SOME AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS WHICH HAVE ASSERTEDLY BLOCKED THE SALE OF THE VFW-614 AIRCRAFT TO THE US COAST GUARD, AS WELL AS OVER THE REPORTEDLY UNFAIR COMPETITIVE TESTING OF THE GERMAN LEOPARD AND AMERICAN AMX TANKS. HE CAUTIONED THAT THE GERMAN PUBLIC AND BUNDESTAG WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS FORM OF "BUY AMERICAN" TACTICS. EVERYONE WHO IS FOR "FAIR PLAY" IN THE TRADE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IN THIS CONNECTION THE AMERICAN AWACS PROJECT DOES NOT BECOME THE VICTIM.

8. KOSCHNICK MADE SOME CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE RECENT FISHERIES AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC, BUT CONCEDED THAT THE EUROPEANS HAVE NOT BEEN GUILTY IN THEIR OWN PROTECTIONIST TRADE POLICIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

9. TURNING TO THE RECENT PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN WHICH THERE WAS ALLEGEDLY A SERIOUS DIFFERENCE IN THE POSITIONS OF THE US AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, KOSCHNICK DISPUTED THAT REAL DIFFERENCES EXISTED. WHILE ANALYZING THE MOTIVATIONS WHICH PROMPTED THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO UNFOLD ITS INITIATIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, KOSCHNICK CAUTIONED AGAINST FORCING THE ISSUE TO EXTREMES IN THE WEST'S RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED STATES. THE SOVIET UNION, HE ASSERTED, MAY REACT BY REVIVING THE COLD WAR, IN WHICH CASE OTHERS (NOT SO MUCH THE SOVIETS) WILL BE THE REAL VICTIMS AND SUFFERERS. HE MADE A PLEA NOT TO ENDANGER THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HELSINKI THROUGH PROPAGANDA SALLIES. "NONE OF UZCN HE SAID, "WANTS A RETURN TO THE COLD WAR". AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, "WE ALL OBSERVE WITH CONCERN THE ATTEMPTS OF THE SOVIET UNION TO CHANGE IN ITS FAVOR, THROUGH A FORCED PACE OF RZAMENT, THE PREREQUISITES FOR A TRUE DETENTE". WHILE WORKING IN

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UNISON WITH THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE GOAL OF DISARMAMENT AND RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN THE WORLD, KOSCHNICK SAID, EUROPE AND ESPECIALLY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WILL HAVE TO MAKE THEIR FULL CONTRIBUTION TO JOINT SECURITY. CONCLUDING, KOSCHNICK STATED THAT GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS TODAY ARE SO FIRM THAT EVEN DISCORDS OVER SUCH ISSUES AS THE BRAZIL DEAL OR OVER DIFFICULTIES IN THE STANDARDIZATION IN NATO WEAPONS SYSTEMS COULD NOT HAVE A LINGERING ADVERSE EFFECT ON THESE RELATIONS. THERE IS NO REASON FOR SERIOUS CONCERN.

10. COMMENT: NOT BEING A MEMBER OF THE BONN GOVERNMENT, KOSCHNICK DELIVERED AN UNINHIBITED AND CANDID EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF GERMAN-US RELATIONS. HE COVERED VIRTUALLY EVERY ISSUE

THAT HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF RECENT CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND HE REFLECTED BONN'S CRITICISM OF US POSITIONS. THE UPBEAT NOTE ON WHICH HE CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH REFLECTS BOTH THE CHANGED ATMOSPHERE THAT SET IN FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE CHANCELLOR'S MEETING AT THE LONDON SUMMIT AS WELL AS KOSCHNICK'S OWN CONVICTION OF THE BASIC SOLIDITY OF US-FRG BILATERAL RELATIONS. SCHIFFMAN

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